

NOT IN CARROLL

Drug Enforcement Support Program

OVERVIEW

The growing problem of Heroin and other drugs in our community is not a new problem nor is it unique to our jurisdiction. However, it is one that has recently seen a dramatic rise in overdose deaths and the presence of drug selling operations that threaten the future of our community. And while education and treatment will continue to be amongst our most important means for addressing the drug problem in our community, we also know that the law enforcement side needs the strategy, resources, training and commitment to attack those that provide these illegal drugs in our community.

We know that it will take a coordinated effort across our community and with other agencies and jurisdictions to be effective in this effort. We have the benefit of a new Sheriff, Jim DeWees and a new State's Attorney, Brian DeLeonardo, each of whom identified this as a major area of concern during their campaigns and came to office with plans to address the issue. We also know that this a priority for our new governor, Larry Hogan and a central area of responsibility for our new Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. We fully expect to work closely with them on this endeavor.

Carroll County Commissioners are being asked to make a commitment of \$2.2 million over three years to support the manpower and resources to implement the Sheriff's program, Repeat Offender Proactive Enforcement, and the State's Attorney's program, Drug Overdose Response Team. Funding for the first year would be provided from one-time surplus funds from prior years. Funding for the 2nd and 3rd years would be from grant funding and supplemented if necessary with reductions, economic development and education funding.

Failure to address these issues now will lead to more overdose deaths, more crime, more need for treatment and incarceration and will undermine our primary objectives of public safety, economic development and education. The programs are ready, the funding is available, the need is without question. Therefore, it is being requested that the County Commissioners of Carroll County act without delay and improve the funding for the implementation of these efforts.

REPEAT OFFENDER PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT)

The Sheriff seeks to address this issue with the creation and implementation of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office Repeat Offender Proactive Enforcement Team (ROPE). This specialized team will investigate street and mid-level narcotics complaints. They will monitor and investigate career criminals living and operating in Carroll County. To accomplish this, the Sheriff is seeking the addition for four Deputy First Class positions and a supervisor, the corresponding equipment and training for them. A detailed plan for the role, coordination and focus of the ROPE program is attached.

DRUG OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM

(STATE'S ATTORNEY OFFICE)

It is the belief of the State's Attorney that to tackle this difficult issue, Carroll County must focus on three areas: (1) aggressive pro-active enforcement and prosecution efforts, (2) a comprehensive and sustained prevention outreach effort, and (3) closely and intensively supervised treatment for newer users entering the court system. To accomplish this, the State's Attorney is seeking three positions and the equipment needed to support them. They include: Supervising Drug Prosecutor, State's Attorney Drug Investigator and the Education and Treatment Liaison. The attached report provides detail.

CONCLUSION

Carroll County Commissioners are scheduled to vote on this matter on Thursday, March 26th.